

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: June 15, 2005 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven has issued an emergency declaration for severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, hail and high winds throughout the state and continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin, beginning April 9 and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** Area flood warnings for Traill, Cass, Ransom, Richland and Sargent counties are still in effect. Overland flooding remains a hazard across parts of southeastern North Dakota from this past weekend's heavy rainfall. Since Monday, June 13, rainfall reports in the southern part of the Red River basin ranged from 1.5 to 2.5 inches. Flooding of low-lying areas and roadways will continue, making travel dangerous, especially at night. The National Weather Service (NWS) has forecasted light precipitation over the next few days producing runoff that will continue to push many area rivers higher. For the long-term flooding situation, drier weather will allow rivers to crest, and then fall during this period. The reduced threat for significant widespread rains will allow area drainage systems to return to normal.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agriculture officials:

Cass County

Reports from Cass county observers and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data indicate the Maple River is flooding and some roads are still under water.

Dickey County

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) met to develop a damage flash report regarding damages caused by severe storms and excessive rainfall. The rains have continued almost daily since June 1, resulting in several thousand acres of prevented planted crops and drowned out crops. Isolated hail damaged crops are reported in Albion and Elden townships. Estimates are 43,876 acres of cropland will not be planted and 40,701 acres damaged due to flooding and standing water. High winds on June 1 blew

over two irrigators and two grains bins on a farm. Another producer lost four cows in rising waters that resulted from flooding in the Edgeley area.

Grand Forks County

An estimated 90 percent of all basements in Northwood have sustained some type of flood damage. Approximately 250 homes and businesses in Grand Forks County have reported minor amounts of water in basements. The Grand Forks County Highway Superintendent reported damage to township and county roads and culverts due to saturation and water run off.

Nelson County

The County Emergency Manager reported moisture from this weekend's heavy rain, combined with nearly continuous rain during the past two weeks, has left roads in the county very saturated. The County Road Superintendent is concerned the gravel roads will not be capable of supporting heavy traffic. High water tables, full sloughs and ditches, along with wave action, have also damaged roads. Stump Lake has risen two feet in the last seven weeks and continues to rise. Two county roads by Stump Lake have been closed since April 7, 2005. The water in the barricaded area of County Road 15 is approximately four feet deep. County Road 23 has a 1,760-foot stretch that is under water and is over four feet deep. The Nelson County Commission, Road Superintendent and Emergency Management are reviewing alternatives for addressing delays in times for emergency response vehicles due to road closures in the Stump Lake area. Approximately 10 percent of the crops in the county have not been planted due to wet conditions (primarily soybeans). It is estimated that five percent of the seeded crop has been damaged or drowned out by the wet conditions and some crop disease is starting to occur.

Ramsey County

The County Highway Superintendent reports roadbeds on township and county roads are saturated with the stability of road surfaces and sub-grade a major concern. Many areas of the county have reported up to six inches of rain since June 1. Major erosion around Devils Lake continues in several subdivisions along the shoreline, creating damage to private and public properties. Emergency construction on several major projects has been halted due to recent rainfall. The City of Devils Lake reports residential basement seepage requiring sump pumps to work continuously. An electrical power outage on June 11 cut power to the east ditch lift station, causing problems with the city's Supervisory Control Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer system. Upper lake chains are full and the ground is saturated in all areas.

The Devils Lake District Engineer for N.D. Department of Transportation reported N.D. Highway 57 was closed for three days last month due to rip rap damage from high winds from storms. Winds from storm activity caused significant damage along the lake; four feet of embankment has slid and is 2 feet away from exposing sewer lines. This will cause an immediate impact to 40 homes.

Richland County

Richland County Law Enforcement indicated township roads in the Wyndmere area remain flooded.

Sargent County

The Emergency Manager reported up to 17 inches of rain has fallen throughout the county to date. Rainfall occurring the weekend of June 11 has substantially elevated the potential for the occurrence of road and home damage. Since June 11, the county has received up to seven inches of rain. The ground has become saturated, causing substantial runoff. Sloughs, culverts, creeks, drains and ditches are running full at this time in the southeastern and northeastern parts of the county. County highway supervisors have been flagging and closing roads as necessary. Water levels in ditches are up to the shoulders of roadways in some areas creating a hazard for travelers and threatening the stability of the shoulders. In the eastern part of the county, approximately 10 areas have water running over the roads. At this time agricultural land is suffering with standing water and/or saturated surfaces due to rainfall. The USDA County Emergency Board estimates 30 to 40 percent crop damage or loss in Sargent County.

Steele County

On June 14, the County Emergency Manager submitted a situation report stating approximately three additional inches of rain had fallen throughout the county in the last four days. More reports of basement flooding have been received. Early damage estimates indicate approximately 30 homes sustained flood damage. The County Emergency Manager expects the number of reports to rise to over 100 in the next few days.

Trail County

Officials reported several bridges remain impassable and several roads in the county are still underwater. One bridge was lost due to flooding. All gravel township and county roadbeds are saturated, contributing to major rutting and potholes. Gravel has been washed from several township and county roads by heavy rainfall. The cities of Clifford, Galesburg and Reynolds have gravel streets, which have also sustained damage from saturation, loss of gravel, and severe rutting and potholes. The cities of Galesburg and Reynolds have installed auxiliary pumps on lift stations to keep up with the excessive water runoff.

Pembina County

The County Emergency Manager reported that the private residence in Cavalier Township again had Public Works pumping water out of their yard to the south from 10:00 p.m. June 14 to about 2:00 a.m. June 15. In addition, homes along N.D. Highway 18, two miles south of Cavalier, are threatened by water backup in the ditches. Public Works cut an approach to allow the water to flow more effectively on the east side of N.D. Highway 18 on June 14. One washed out bridge on County Road 12 north of N.D. Highway 5 has been repaired.

River Statements

The Grand Forks Office of the NWS reported a flood watch is in effect for southeastern North Dakota and the Red River Valley. Flood warnings remain in effect for the James, Red and Souris Rivers.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	13.1 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 13.3 feet on June 15
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	26.53 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 27.0 feet on June 19-20
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	37.3 feet @ 7:45 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 42.0 feet on June 19
Red River at Oslo	28 feet	32.41 feet @ 8:15 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 36 feet on June 19
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	30.89 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 40 feet on June 20
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	36.57 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 46 feet next week
Goose River at Hillsboro	7 feet	11.82feet @ 6:30 a.m. June 15	Crest at 12.6 feet on June 16
Maple River at Mapleton	902 feet	908.76 feet @ 7:30 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 908.7 feet on June 14
Sheyenne River at West Fargo	16.5 feet	19.15 feet @ 7:30 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 22.4 feet on June 17
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	888.66 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 890.4 feet on June 17
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.35 feet @ 6:45 a.m. June 15	Crest @ 12.3 feet on June 14
James River at LaMoure	14 feet	9.39 feet @ 9:31 a.m. June 15	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Oakes	93 feet	92.68 feet @ 9:30 a.m. June 15	Crested, river trend is falling
Souris River at Towner	52 feet	50.9 feet @ 1:00 p.m. June 15	Crested, river trend is falling

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** Lutheran Disaster Response of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota has been coordinating with other relief agencies to identify needs and resources. This effort is being conducted in partnership with N.D. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). A meeting has been scheduled in Edgeley on June 17 to discuss long-term recovery issues. Several VOAD members are meeting with local community leadership. A second meeting will be held that day to discuss statewide long-term recovery efforts.

Workers with United Methodists' Volunteers in Mission Responding to Disaster have been pumping out and sanitizing basements, removing furniture, carpeting

and sheetrock, salvaging belongings and structures in Edgeley. Workers are helping with inspection of homes to determine where help is needed. They also installed a sump pump in a home. Twenty volunteers assisted with efforts on June 14.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Hoeven recently was informed by White House officials that funding will be available under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief Fund to help shore roads under stress because of flooding in the Devils Lake region. This spring, the Governor called upon FHWA administrators and White House officials to provide both short and long-term funding to address the problem of roads functioning as dikes. The N.D. Department of Transportation has been working with state and federal agencies to develop plans to mitigate seepage issues on N.D. Highway 20.

On June 14-15, Boards of Commission for Steele and Walsh Counties issued emergency declarations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported construction continues to raise the city of Devils Lake levee system to 1,460 feet. Impervious fill placement is essentially complete along the entire alignment. Work continues on the placement of geo-textile, bedding and riprap on the levee slope. The contract completion date is set for November.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous years.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The NWS lists quantitative precipitation forecasts on its website: www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security